

THE MILITANT

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Pathfinder books generate lively interest at Manila book fair
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A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 82/NO. 40 OCTOBER 29, 2018

‘Working people need to organize, to build unions’

BY MAGGIE TROWE

Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and its candidates in the 2018 elections are campaigning on workers’ doorsteps all across the country, introducing them to the party, its pro-

SWP SPEAKS IN INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

gram and perspectives, the *Militant* and books by party leaders. They are organizing to take advantage of both the three weeks left in the midterm election campaigns and the eight-week party drive to sell 1,400 subscriptions, 1,400 books and to raise \$100,000 for the work of the party.

In Philadelphia, supporters of SWP senatorial candidate Osborne Hart went campaigning in the Rhawnhurst neighborhood Oct. 13. “The Democratic and Republican parties say they

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Ky concrete workers strike over health care, two-tier

BY STEVE PACKARD AND JIM HORN

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — “This strike isn’t really about wages. It’s about health insurance and being able to take care of your family,” Ed Sadler, head mechanic with 21 years at Allied Ready Mix, told the *Militant* as he picketed outside the cement plant Oct. 9.

“I’ve got a 12-year-old grandson with asthma and a 16-month-old granddaughter, so I’ve got to have good health insurance,” he said.

The 45 drivers, mechanics, batchmen and loader operators at this concrete supplier in Butchertown, one of Louisville’s long-standing industrial areas, went on strike Oct. 8, along with half a dozen co-workers at Allied’s other facility here. The workers, members of Teamsters Local 89, walked out after rejecting the company’s “final offer,” which would have

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Join Socialist Workers Party 2018 Campaign!



Militant

Dan Fein, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Illinois governor, talks with Willie Norwood, right, in Kankakee. Bedrock of party’s campaigning is going door to door to talk with workers.

Workers need to build their own party, a labor party

BY TERRY EVANS AND JOHN STUDER

Working people are living through times today we haven’t seen in our lifetimes. The working class remains at the center of politics in the U.S. as the 2018 midterm elections are less than three weeks away. Although no one can predict the timing, the capitalist rulers — and the meritocratic professionals who serve them — sense that mounting class struggle lies ahead.

The Socialist Workers Party, with working-class candidates in 11 states and the District of Columbia, is cam-

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Join SWP in taking its campaign out to workers!

The *Militant* calls on working people to join the Socialist Workers Party candidates campaigning up to the Nov. 6 elections. They are the only

EDITORIAL

candidates who explain that working people need to break from the bosses’ political parties, the Democrats and Republicans. We need our own party, a labor party based on the unions.

The big-business press tries to convince us to “be practical, don’t throw

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Hurricane Michael: Latest social catastrophe caused by capitalism



AP Photos/Gerald Herbert

Workers face total destruction in Mexico Beach, Florida, where pro-builder codes allowed use of inferior material to boost profits. As storm neared, gov’t told people “you’re on your own.”

BY SETH GALINSKY

Hurricane Michael is one of the strongest storms to hit the Florida Panhandle in decades. The sustained winds reached 155 mph and the storm surge in places was 10 feet. But that doesn’t explain the unfolding social catastrophe there. Capitalist greed for profit above all, and the disdain of the bosses’ government at all levels for the well-being and safety of working people is the reason.

“Evacuate” or “hunker down” is

what government officials told people in the path of the storm. “Don’t expect the government to help take care of you,” Bay County authorities said. “You need to take care of yourselves.”

The only government-organized evacuation was by the Pentagon. It made sure that most of the 50 F-22 warplanes at Tyndall Air Force Base were flown to Ohio and Texas before the storm hit, and evacuated most soldiers and families.

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Help ‘Militant’ overturn ongoing censorship inside Florida prisons

BY SETH GALINSKY

The *Militant* filed an appeal Oct. 15 asking the Florida Department of Corrections Literature Review Committee to overturn the latest impoundment of the paper by prison authorities.

Officials at Florida State Prison in Raiford alleged that articles on the fight against solitary confinement in California prisons and the hunger strike by Oleg Sentsov, a Crimean film director imprisoned in Moscow’s gulag, are “a threat to the security, good order, or discipline” of the prison and encourage “insurrection.”

This latest impoundment “appears to be part of an ongoing targeting” of the *Militant*, the paper’s lawyer David Goldstein, of the Rabinowitz, Boudin, Standard, Krinsky & Lieberman civil rights law firm, wrote, “for unconstitutional and arbitrary content-based and viewpoint-based censorship.”

When a paper is impounded at one Florida prison, they’re taken away from subscribers in all prisons there.

Prison wardens and officials “have attempted to censor nine of the past 16 issues” of the *Militant*, he said. In the last year and a half they have impounded at least 19 issues, roughly “four times as

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UK Uber drivers strike 24 hours over pay, right to join union

Striking Rhode Island bus drivers win union pension

Ingush protests demand, 'End attack on national sovereignty'

BY TERRY EVANS

Thousands have taken to the streets daily since Oct. 4 in Magas, Ingushetia, to protest a "land swap" that turns 5 percent of the country over to the rulers in neighboring Chechnya. Protesters have set up an encampment there, with actions growing to include thousands each day. They are also demanding the resignation of Moscow-appointed President Yunus-Bek Yevkurov, who signed the deal behind the backs of the people.

The protesters have united people of all stripes in the country, who have fought for decades for national sovereignty. They have not been deterred by authorities' demands that they disperse, warning gunshots by Russian troops or threats of military intervention by Chechen head of state Ramzan Kadyrov. Other Ingush have donated food and clothing to sustain demonstrators.

According to an Oct. 9 report in the Caucasian Knot news website, Chechnya will get 66,200 acres — 26 times more territory than Ingushetia is supposed to receive in return — in the so-called land swap.

The heads of the two governments agreed to the deal in September, watched over by Russian President Vladimir Putin's envoy to the North Caucasus Federal District, where Ingushetia and Chechnya are located.

Putin had previously cancelled elections in the North Caucasus that are part of the Russian Federation, imposing officials he chose to administer governments there.

With a population of just under half a million, Ingushetia is the smallest re-

public in the Russian Federation, and is majority Sunni Muslim.

Like other peoples across the region, the Ingush were subjected to plunder and national oppression by czarist rulers of Russia for centuries.

The overturn of capitalist rule by millions of working people in the Bolshevik-led 1917 Russian Revolution opened the door to ending national oppression and forging unity among workers and farmers. The revolutionary government guaranteed the unconditional right to self-determination of peoples long-oppressed under czarism and established a voluntary federation of the different nations making up the Soviet Union.

The Ingushetia Autonomous Oblast existed from 1924 until 1934, when it was subsumed in the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Oblast. The counterrevolutionary triumph by forces led by Stalin had extinguished the revolution's championing of national rights. A prison house of nations was reimposed across the Soviet Union.

The Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic was abolished during the second imperialist world war. Its 650,000 inhabitants were forcibly deported to Siberia and Kazakhstan in 1944. Stalin falsely accused the Ingush and Chechens of collaborating with the German Nazis. At least a third perished in 13 years of exile.

Moscow barred the Ingush from returning until 1957 when the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Republic was restored. But it was shorn of the Prigorodny region, which Stalin repopulated with people from North Ossetia.



Ingushetia 2018 Telegram Channel

Thousands gather in daily protests in Magas, capital of Ingushetia, to oppose ceding of land to neighboring Chechnya by leader appointed by Vladimir Putin government in Moscow.

After the Soviet Union imploded in 1991, two separate republics were established in Chechnya and Ingushetia.

In 1992 Ingush nationalists formed armed groups to ensure, they said, "that all the Ingushetian territories seized by Stalin are returned to the Ingush Republic." But with the aid of Moscow their uprising was crushed.

Both the Ingush and Chechens were oppressed by Moscow. In the 1990s and early 2000s Russia's rising capitalist class waged two wars against Chechens fighting for their independence, leaving 30,000 dead. Moscow defeated the insurgents and installed the Kadyrov government, reaching an alliance with him

that gave Chechnya's rulers a wide degree of autonomy as long as they stayed loyal to the Kremlin.

Chechnyan authorities have long disputed the borders between that country and Ingushetia, utilizing Stalin-era maps from the 1930s to justify their demands for Ingush territory. In 2013 Chechen security forces organized an incursion into Ingushetia under the pretext of hunting down domestic political opponents they claimed were based there.

In response to today's mass protests, Putin telephoned Yevkurov to press him to restore calm to the area. Yevkurov says that surrendering the land is needed for "regional stability."

Workers donate bosses' 'blood money' bribes to SWP

"Enclosed are three checks totaling \$374 from bonuses retail workers recently received in their paychecks," wrote Eli French from Seattle. "This is more 'blood money' our boss uses to try and convince workers that we all have a stake in the company. We gladly contribute this to help the work of the Socialist Workers Party."

Communists use the term "blood money" to describe production, attendance, safety and other so-called bonuses the bosses give in an effort to bribe workers to keep quiet about speedup, low pay and unsafe working conditions.

By giving this money to the Socialist Workers Party's Capital Fund, class-conscious workers turn those bribes into their opposite — funds to build the working-class movement and strengthen the party's long-term work.

In September, 29 contributors sent \$2,970.10 to the SWP from blood money bribes. Some are "My Share" bonuses from Walmart.

"Enclosed is a \$17.11 bonus," wrote Milly Townsend in Albany, New York. "It's a pleasure to give this bribe to the party. I have a job that requires working on my knees to stock shelves, but it took months to get the company to give me a set of kneepads. The bosses justify this lack of protective equipment in the name of 'controlling costs.'"

To donate blood money your boss tries to bribe you with to the party, contact the Socialist Workers Party branch nearest you, listed in the directory on page 8.

— BRIAN WILLIAMS

THE MILITANT

Unite, organize all workers! Amnesty for immigrants!

During strike for union recognition L.A. port workers joined protest against threat to deport immigrant workers. The 'Militant' explains why fight for amnesty for undocumented workers strengthens workers' unity and efforts to organize all workers into unions.



Reuters/Kyle Grillot
L.A. port strikers at immigrant rights action.

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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

'We need to organize unions'

Continued from front page

represent everyone but they slavishly serve the interests of the wealthy," Cal Hansen told nurse practitioner Siri Larsen on her porch. "We are talking with you and other workers today about the need to organize our own working-class party and to build a labor movement that campaigns to organize unions, fights for amnesty for immigrants in the U.S. to unify our class, fights against cop brutality, for women's emancipation, and against Washington's wars."

"I agree, the Democrats are just as bad as the Republicans," Larsen said.

Larsen was interested in Hansen's comments about how workers need to build strong unions. She said she was a social worker before training to be a nurse, and had taken part in a successful union-organizing drive.

"When I became a nurse, we voted in the union and it changed everything — pay discrepancies, nurses not having a voice on conditions and staffing levels that were unsafe for patients," she said. Management at one local hospital fought the union drive by intimidating and threatening staff, she said, then sold the hospital to another company.

"We need a working-class party that fights to change that," Hansen said. "Some workers at the retail store where I work have been talking about the need for a union. Some of them live near here. Would you be interested in getting together and telling us about your experience organizing a union?"

"Sure," she said. "Give me a call."

To learn more about the party she subscribed to the *Militant* and got three books on special offer — *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* and *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record*, by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes; and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by party leader Mary-Alice Waters. (See ad below.)

Before joining a picket line in Providence, Rhode Island, of striking school bus drivers — members of Teamsters Local 251 — SWP members from Albany, New York, knocked on doors in the Silver Lake neighborhood. First Student Inc., the bus owners, and local media had been trying to whip up sentiment against the strikers, who

walked out after the bosses attacked their retirement funds.

Celeste Thomason, who operates an eight-child day care center in her home, told Ellen Brickley that she understood that bus drivers need a pension, but was concerned that the strike hurt the students who couldn't get a ride to school.

"The bosses are trying to paint the unionists as irresponsible to cover up the attacks on their pensions," Brickley said. "I think the company is trying to chisel the workers and we should support their strike."

Brickley said we need a stronger labor movement that can champion workers' struggles, and we need for the labor movement to break from the bosses and their twin parties, the Democrats and Republicans, and form a labor party.

Brickley showed Thomason *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Barnes and paged through the book and its lively photo signatures, pointing out how Malcolm and others fighting against racial prejudice and Jim Crow segregation were transformed through their struggle. That can happen today if we fight, she said.

"I think you're right," Thomason said. "I remember a few years ago when day care operators fought for and won a union and health care. We took the kids to the protests and they learned about what we were fighting for."

She bought the book and subscribed to the *Militant*. "Keep doing what you're doing," she told Brickley.

Harry D'Agostino, the SWP's candidate for lieutenant governor in New York and a professional musician, had some free time in Seattle Oct. 8 while on tour with his band. He joined Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate there, door-knocking in the Central District neighborhood and met a home worker named John, who said he hails from the tobacco region of Tennessee.

"We had a discussion on what is happening to working people in this country and what our class will have to do to organize ourselves and build the working-class movement, one that can become capable of taking power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers," Fruit



Militant
Campaigning door to door in Woodhaven, Queens, in New York Oct. 14, Socialist Workers Party member Willie Cotton, right, speaks with an airport worker who had been involved in organizing a union at his workplace. He purchased *The Clintons' Anti-Working-Class Record*, a *Militant* subscription, and said he wanted to talk more about unions and the party's activities.

wrote in a report on the team.

"In Cuba workers and farmers built a revolutionary movement and took power," D'Agostino said. "They began to organize the country in their class interests and drew millions into the revolution. They succeeded in overthrowing the U.S.-backed dictatorship and brought workers and peasants to power."

"International solidarity became a cornerstone of what they did," he added, describing how Cuba led in sending doctors to fight the Ebola epidemic in Africa.

John said he was in Haiti after the devastating earthquake happened in 2010 and was impressed with the work of the volunteer Cuban medical teams he saw there.

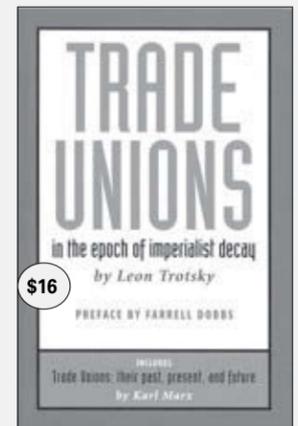
"Can you imagine what could be done if the U.S. government mobilized its resources to send doctors to other countries?" John replied. "The world could be changed almost overnight!"

"That won't happen under a capitalist government, where medicine is run as a business built around profits, not health care," Fruit said. "But if we start building a workers party and the producers of the wealth — workers and farmers — take power, then that will happen." John decided to try out the *Militant* and subscribed for 12 weeks.

As these accounts show, the party's election campaigns and eight-week *Militant*, book and fund drive is helping strengthen the party's central activity — engaging workers in cities, towns and rural areas.

If you want to help build the labor movement and think workers need their own party, join with the SWP in winning new *Militant* readers and contributors to the party. To get books and papers or to join with SWP members in door-knocking, please contact the nearest SWP branch listed on page 8.

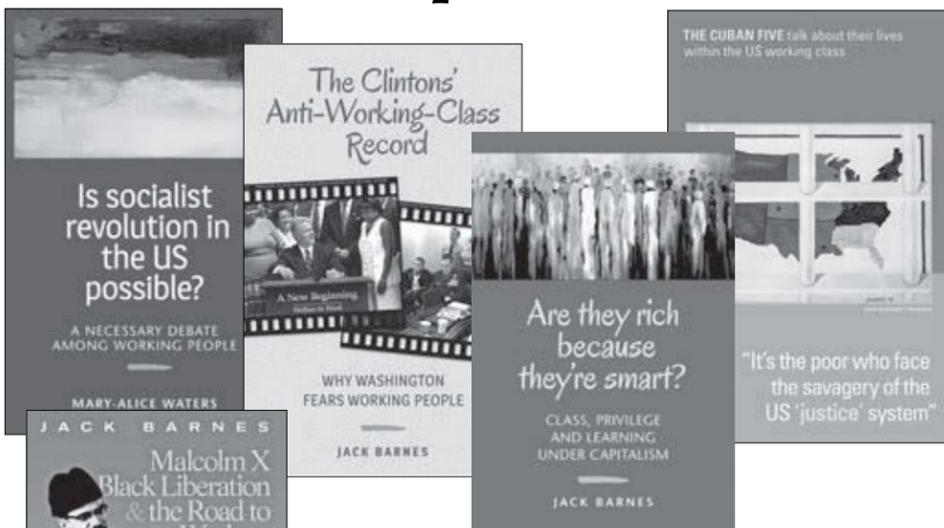
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Brexit fight unfolds as capitalist competition tears away at EU

BY JONATHAN SILBERMAN

LONDON — It has been two and a half years since a referendum on the U.K.'s membership in the European Union recorded a 17.4 million to 16.1 million majority for Brexit. Millions of workers took advantage of the ballot to register a protest against how the bosses and successive governments have made them pay for the crisis of British capitalism.

The backdrop was the sharpening competition between capitalist rulers worldwide, which is tearing apart the fabric of the European "Union." The propertied rulers in the U.K. are fighting over how to protect their interests and find a place in this world in the face of their accelerated decline.

U.K. Prime Minister Theresa May has opted for what's been dubbed "Bri-no" — Brexit in name only. Though London's offer would commit the government to pay billions of pounds into EU coffers for years, each proposal they've made has been rejected by EU negotiators under instruction from Berlin and Paris.

May submitted a package of proposals to the European Union summit in Salzburg, Austria, Sept. 19-20. The package provided for continued customs-free trade in goods and committed the U.K. to "continued harmonization with the EU." It would end the automatic right of workers in EU member states to enter and work in the U.K. and would also allow London to pursue other trade deals. "It's not so easy to leave the EU, it's not without a cost," said French President Emmanuel Macron, explaining the summit decision to reject the package.

The proposal had already split May's cabinet. Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who wants to replace May as Conservative Party leader, was one of four ministers to resign. He said her course wasn't a realistic alternative, describing it as an "outrage" that would leave Britain "locked in the tractor beam of Brussels."

Johnson speaks for the wing of the British ruling class who think the road for British capital is a sharp, clean break, seeking to bind their future more closely with a "special relationship" with Washington and with the Commonwealth countries — former colonies of the U.K. Others in the capitalist class have sought to reverse the referendum vote altogether in an attempt to hang onto current trade and political relations in the EU. The Conservative and Labour

Parties and the government itself have been wracked by division over which way to go.

Since Salzburg, May has signaled willingness to get down still further on her knees to the German rulers, who gain most from the EU setup and dominate its operations. She has offered a continued customs union for years after the scheduled Brexit breakup on March 29, 2019.

May hopes she can overcome inevitable opposition from some Conservative Members of Parliament by gaining backing from opposition Labour MPs. "If you [May] deliver a deal that includes a customs union and no hard border in Ireland," leader Jeremy Corbyn pledged at the Labour Party's September conference, "then we will support that sensible deal."

The Irish border question has been a stumbling block. Rulers of countries in the EU, and most bosses in Ireland, want to ensure that despite Brexit a free commercial flow will continue across the border. But many Conservative Party MPs, along with the Northern Ireland Democratic Unionist Party, which props up May's minority government in Parliament, say they will not accept any deal that treats Northern Ireland differently from the rest of the U.K.

Labour has called for a new referendum, a "people's vote," in an effort to overturn the previous "people's vote."

"They want us to vote over and over until we vote the way they want," Colin Johnson, a retired engineering worker in Harlow, Essex, told the *Militant* when members of the Communist League knocked on his door.

EU bloc being pulled apart

The protectionist bloc that is the EU is being pulled apart as national member governments defend the divergent interests of their respective ruling families. Recognizing the centrifugal forces, Paris proposes the EU implement a "multispeed" Europe of "concentric circles" to entrench a stronger position for France. A core of more powerful states that share the euro as their currency would form the center, locked together with a common budget, finance minister and parliament. The U.K. would be exiled to an outer zone, along with Moldova, Ukraine, Russia and Turkey, all of which are, or will be, outside the EU and use their own currency.

Macron's proposals are anathema to governments in Italy, Hungary and elsewhere, that would face greater competition and pressure from anything that smacks of further integration.

Berlin is also "diametrically opposed" — for different reasons. Looking to safeguard Germany's domination of the whole 27-country bloc, Chancellor Angela Merkel has no interest in relinquishing the German capitalist rulers' control.

"When a German says 'banking union,' he means having German accountants lay down the law to banks in Greece," Christopher Cauldwell wrote in the *Weekly Standard* in August. Greek workers and farmers have paid a steep price for this kind of "union." The country's economy has shrunk by 25 percent, pensions and benefits were slashed, and youth unemployment stands at 44 percent. Meanwhile, Greek government

Thousands march for right to abortion in Ireland



Abortion Rights Campaign

"We voted to repeal the 8th, now it's time to legislate!" chanted thousands of defenders of women's right to choose abortion at a Sept. 29 march in Dublin, pointing to the victory for women and all working people scored in May when a large majority voted to repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution that had enshrined "the right to life of the unborn" and prevented women's access to abortion.

Legislation to make abortion legal has been drawn up by the government, but has yet to be passed through parliament or medical services put in place.

"This has never been a quiet revolution," organizers told participants in the protest. "Don't get quiet now!"

On Oct. 4 Health Minister Simon Harris introduced for the first time the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Bill in the Irish parliament. The bill provides for abortion on request up to 12 weeks, but institutes a three-day waiting period before the procedure can be carried out. The bill provides a clause that medical personnel can use a "conscientious objection" to refuse to carry out abortion services, but obliges them to make referrals to those who will. Some politicians and the Catholic Church are calling for the provision to cover referrals as well. Discussion and debate on the bill continues.

A number of marchers wore red and carried a suitcase, symbolizing the fact that to get a legal abortion today women still have to travel to the U.K. Volunteers who escort them to doctors there wear red to be recognized.

Another popular slogan on the march was "The North is Next! #NoOneLeftBehind." Abortion is banned in Northern Ireland, unlike in the rest of the U.K., and women seeking abortions there — like in the South — have to fly abroad to have the procedure. The campaign for a change in Northern Ireland's laws is gathering momentum. Proponents of a woman's right to choose in Belfast organized a demonstration in July, chanting, "No more airfare, we want health care!"

The same day as the march in Dublin thousands demonstrated for a woman's right to choose abortion in Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, across Europe and elsewhere.

— OLIVIA ANDERTON

debt has increased by over 40 percent since 2009 with German banks coming out the winners.

Washington and Moscow

Washington and Moscow are adding to the pressures. U.S. President Donald Trump has called into question both the EU and NATO, pointing to how the European capitalist rulers survive and enrich themselves by relying on the Pentagon as their army. This allows them to go after Washington — and each other — to jockey for trade and profits without having to pay for defense.

Merkel responds that Europe must "take its destiny into its own hands." But Germany's armed forces are in a pathetic state. And there is no common foreign policy among rival EU member governments — each jealously guards its national veto.

The German capitalists are heavily dependent on Russian gas for power and are committed to the Nord Stream 2 pipeline project that is under construction. But in July, after the White House flexed its preeminent economic muscles, President Trump and EU President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a trade agreement in which Europe would increase purchases of

U.S. liquid natural gas.

In addition to being a blow to the German rulers, this caused a strong reaction from Macron, who cares most about defending French agribusiness from U.S. competition. This doesn't mean he seeks to protect French farmers. The profits are raked in by giant French commercial trusts that monopolize trade and banking.

Every move in one direction sharpens the EU divisions in another. The fact is there is no "Europe" in anything other than a geographical sense. The competition and differentiation there, part of the inevitable workings of capitalism, continue to tear it apart.

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—ON THE PICKET LINE—

This column gives a voice to those engaged in labor battles and building solidarity today. Send in articles, photos and letters on picket lines and other labor protests to themilitant@mac.com, post them directly on our website, or mail them to 306 W. 37th St., 13th floor, New York, NY 10018.

UK Uber drivers strike 24 hours over pay, right to join union

LONDON — Hundreds of angry drivers chanted “Shame on Uber” as they marched around the Aldgate office of Uber U.K. here Oct. 9. Noisy drumbeats accompanied the chanting.

The action marked the beginning of a 24-hour strike by Uber drivers in London, Birmingham and Nottingham. “Uber is driving us into poverty” and “Uber end sweated labour now” were among the many banners and signs drivers carried. The action was organized by the Independent Workers Union of Great Britain and its driver branch, United Private Hire Drivers.

Drivers logged out from the Uber app for the strike and asked potential riders to abstain from using Uber then.

The workers are fighting for a 10 percent reduction in the commission paid by the drivers to Uber (currently 25 percent for UberX). A central demand is that Uber implement the Employment and Employment Appeal Tribunal rulings that drivers be treated as workers, with payment of at least minimum wage, for holidays and the right to a union.

This protest follows actions in September by Uber Eats couriers, who deliver food by bike and scooter. Like Uber drivers, Uber Eats workers have an app on their smartphone where they get their jobs. Uber uses this to claim its workers are “independent contractors,” despite the ruling of the appeal tribunal.

If Uber bosses think you are a troublemaker or union organizer, they turn the app off and you’re out of a job. This helps them keep pay down and a union out. Even so, Uber drivers and couriers have been organizing strikes and protests, not only in the U.K. but in Australia, New Zealand, Spain, and the U.S.

The Independent Workers Union has called for a demonstration Oct. 30, which is the first day of the hearing in Uber bosses’ moves to overturn the Employment Appeal tribunal ruling. The ruling was handed down two years ago, but Uber continues to re-

fuse to recognize the drivers as workers with rights.

—Dag Tirsén

Striking Rhode Island bus drivers win union pension

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — After 11 days on strike, members of Teamsters Local 251 voted Oct. 13 to ratify a new contract with First Student Inc., winning a union pension plan. This correspondent met several dozen of the striking school bus drivers, some of the 200 members of the union, as they picketed outside the city’s main school bus barn here the day before the vote. Workers were demanding a union pension because the company had violated their contract by failing to pay into their 401(k) retirement fund.

First Student Inc., an international company that contracts with school districts to provide student transportation, is the largest school bus company in North America.

“A lot of the drivers have to work a second job to make ends meet,” Debbie, a driver for 25 years, who asked that her last name not be used, told the *Militant*. In addition to the strike in Rhode Island,



Militant/Dag Tirsén

Uber workers in London march around company office Oct. 9 during 24-hour strike, demanding drivers be treated as workers, not contractors, with improved pay and right to join a union.

bus drivers employed by First Student have walked out over the last couple of years in Seattle, Southern California, Montreal and other areas, seeking wage increases and improved health benefits and working conditions.

After Providence bus drivers walked off the job Sept. 27, city officials and the local press attempted to smear the strikers, seeking to convince parents and students to oppose the walkout.

Many passing motorists honked in support of the pickets. A few expressed opposition. Driver Hans Jimenez said that after the company fired a driver six months ago, “we started talking about what to do, how to fight for higher wages, better health care and a good retirement plan. They make millions of dollars and they don’t care about us. That’s why we need to keep fighting.”

—Sam Hamlin

Ky concrete workers strike over health care, two-tier

Continued from front page

imposed across-the-board cuts in health care, pay, vacation time, overtime and pensions.

The bosses proposed to switch workers onto a health plan that would jump their out-of-pocket expenses and cut benefits, the union said. It would impose a two-tier health care system for new hires and remove all employees from their defined pension benefit plan.

On Oct. 1, the company told workers it would begin implementing the terms of its final offer, with or without an agreement.

Workers on the picket line told us that if the bosses get their way the family health care deductible would double from \$4,000 to \$8,000 per year.

“They’re trying to do to us what they

did six years ago,” said Jonathan James, a driver at Allied for 27 years. When the company “threatened our jobs with bankruptcy claims and forced us to accept serious concessions, they said they had to, to ‘keep the company alive.’”

Profits are booming today and the company has just completed a \$2.1 million plant expansion. “This time they’re trying to get us to go for more concessions by preaching that we’re all a family,” said James.

Strikers and supporters have mounted spirited daily picket, shouting and chanting over bullhorns. They’re greeted with a constant stream of passing trucks and cars blasting their horns in support. Production has ground to a standstill.

Other unionists have joined the line in solidarity, including United Auto Work-

ers from nearby plants and United Food and Commercial Workers members, who pushed back the bosses’ two-tier demands at the Four Roses distillery last month. “They’re trying to push the same two-tier system here,” Kevin Bradshaw, a 20-year driver at Allied Ready Mix, said when he met nine UFCW members from Four Roses on the line and looked at the *Militant*’s coverage of their strike.

Workers at retail stores in the area that don’t yet have unions, including from Menards and Walmart, have joined the picketing. One forklift operator and delivery coordinator from a Menards store in nearby Jeffersonville, Indiana, came to support the strike on her day off. She grabbed the bullhorn and helped lead some chants. She said that the health insurance at Menards is so bad that she has to stay on her parents’ insurance. “I would like a union at Menards, we definitely need it,” she added.

“The bosses called the police on us yesterday, accusing one of our guys of throwing a bomb onto the highway,” Ronnie Sadler, a mechanic, told us. “The police couldn’t make the frame-him-up stick because he wasn’t anywhere near the highway. He was walking the line with us.”

“One firefighter told us later that it turned out to be just a truck that had blown a tire,” Sadler said. “But today they’ve got the police here to escort scab workers out.”

“The company likes to talk a lot about how you’ll be joining a ‘family’ when they hire you,” Randall Carwell, another driver, said. “I’ve never seen a family separated by a fence. On the picket line side of the fence, we are the family.”

Striking driver Kevin Bradshaw said the strike sets an example for other workers. “This strike is an example of how workers can stand up for themselves,” he said. “Even if you don’t have a union yet you can look to this and see what standing up for yourself can do.”

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO



November 1, 1993

Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, recently surveyed more than 1,100 farm families in the state and identified close to a quarter as being in severe financial condition.

One of the “luxuries” to go is health insurance. Currently around 25 percent of Midwest farmers have little or no health insurance. The average farm family of four pays close to \$4,500 a year for health care.

The July floods mean that Iowa farmers face the lowest crop yields in 30 years. In fact, the only way out for many farmers is to destroy thousands of acres of crops to qualify for the government’s “zero-92” program, under which 92 percent of farm-program payments are paid by the government if no crops are planted or if an existing crop is intentionally destroyed.



November 1, 1968

The presidential election campaign of the Socialist Workers Party, buttressed by local campaigns, has been the most effective waged by the party since it first fielded a presidential ticket in 1948. And if there was ever an election year when a meaningful socialist alternative to the capitalist politicians was needed, this certainly has been it.

Referring to Humphrey, Nixon and Wallace, an Oct. 24 *New York Times* story was headlined: “The Candidates and Foreign Affairs: Little Choice for Voters Seem Evident.”

This is the fact not only in relation in foreign affairs, but on every significant issue at stake in the election. All three favor continuing U.S. efforts aimed at world domination. All three favor repressive measures against liberation forces at home.



October 30, 1943

With thousands of rank and file coal miners again on strike against the wage-freezing policies of the Roosevelt war government, the War Labor Board rejected the second agreement negotiated between the Illinois Coal Operators Association and the United Mine Workers Union. As the miners battle to defend their standard of living, demands are growing for a general strike among the 1,450,000 railroad workers.

The crisis of railway labor can be better understood when it is recalled that the rail workers are accounted as one of the most conservative sections of the trade union movement. Today, however, the rank and file of the rail unions are fighting mad. They are demanding action and are proceeding to build some red hot fires underneath the ample posteriors of their “labor executives.”

Pathfinder books spark lively interest at Manila book fair

BY JANET ROTH AND RON POULSEN

MANILA, Philippines — There was hardly an hour when the Pathfinder booth at the Sept. 12-16 Manila International Book Fair wasn't packed with fairgoers of all ages browsing the shelves with growing enthusiasm for the books they saw. The crowds kept coming even after a powerful storm sideswiped the city Sept. 15. The center of the deadly typhoon hit further north, killing over 100 and leaving a social catastrophe for tens of thousands.

By the end of the fair the next day, the shelves had been stripped almost bare. During the five-day event and days after, more than 700 books were bought, many by young people who often spent quite a while at the stand perusing the 150 different titles available while consulting and deciding which they most wanted to read. In addition, some 25 people subscribed to the *Militant*.

This was the first time in nearly 30 years that New York-based Pathfinder Press participated in this fair. Its books on working-class history and politics, written by revolutionary leaders of those struggles, have never been widely available in this country, despite the common usage of English. The eager response was a measure of how the sharpening social and political crises of capitalism is pushing working people worldwide, including youth, to learn more about their own history as part of the search for a way forward.

Volunteer workers staffing the booth came from Communist Leagues in Australia, Canada and New Zealand, and the Socialist Workers Party in the United States. Two young Filipinos active in social and political struggles here helped staff the booth, bringing friends to join the nonstop political discussions.

These discussions took up the important international shifts occurring as the post-World War II imperialist world order comes apart under the weight of its own contradictions and unavoidable crises; the importance for working people of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula; the sharpening rivalry between Washington and Beijing in Asia, the Pacific, and beyond; and the devastating wars in the Middle East. A recurring question was what the vote for Donald Trump says about the working class in the United States.

The volunteers explained how the perspectives contained in the books draw on the lessons from nearly two centuries of working-class struggles. These help chart a course to effectively resist the assaults by the ruling rich and build a movement of the working class and its allies capable of taking state power out of the hands of the capitalist rulers. Many were attracted to books by leaders of the Cuban Revolution explaining how working people in Cuba accomplished this historic task — information rarely available in the Philippines.

Rich political discussions

Renate Canetere and his Peruvian friend Christian Bernal told two of the volunteers at the stand, Baskaran Appu from New Zealand and Ron Poulsen from Australia, that in their opinion, "Communism is a far-off utopia based

on a rigid ideal of equality." Appu and Poulsen explained that such a conception of communism reflected the rationalizations and practice of Maoism, the variant of Stalinism long dominant in the Philippines. This has repulsed many working people, driving them away from revolutionary politics. "It is the counterfeiter of Marxism," they explained.

"Just look at the revolution in Cuba in which millions of workers and peasants transformed themselves in the struggle against the Batista dictatorship. Led by genuine communists like Fidel Castro and Che Guevara they won political power, carried out a socialist revolution on Washington's doorstep and have defended it for 60 years," Poulsen said.

"That's a better model," Canetere agreed.

Call center worker Rhys Valdez asked Katy LeRougetel from Canada, "Did you know that the owner of the SM Mall of Asia [where the book fair was held] is the richest man in the Philippines? He also owns the call centers that occupy the many tall office buildings around here. A cashier in this mall earns half what I do."

The Philippines is today the call center capital of the world, with well over a million English-speaking Filipino workers serving U.S., Australian and other companies. These jobs, which account for 10 percent of the gross domestic product of the Philippines, are the best-paying work many young people can get, especially with overtime. Various political forces here are seeking to organize unions among the workers at some centers.

An estimated 2.3 million Filipinos, both men and women, are overseas as contract workers, with over half in the Middle East working in Saudi Arabia, the Gulf States, Israel and Jordan, so the conflicts and wars in that region have a direct impact here. Titles dealing with anti-Semitism and the fight against Jew-hatred sold out quickly, including Leon Trotsky's *On the Jewish Question*.

Many booth visitors read with interest the statement of the SWP titled "For Recognition of a Palestinian State and of Israel," which puts forth a course of struggle by all working people in the region — Arab, Israeli, Persian, and many others — to organize and act together in their own class interests, overcoming the divisions imposed by their capitalist exploiters.

Titles related to the fight against women's oppression attracted constant



Militant/Ron Poulsen

More than 700 books on working-class politics, history were scooped up at Manila book fair.

interest and discussion and were among the best-sellers at the fair. The pamphlet *Abortion Is a Woman's Right!* by Pat Grogan was especially sought after. Abortion is illegal under all circumstances in the Philippines, and it is a question that is hotly debated.

Graduate student Angela Villanueva was one of those who strongly supported a woman's right to choose. "Abortion should be legalized," she told New Zealand volunteer Janet Roth. "Whatever the reason, it is a woman's choice to make that decision." Answering one of the arguments often made by opponents of women's rights, she said, "Legalization will not mean women will just go and get pregnant. Abortion is not always an easy choice."

The Philippines is also one of only two states in the world — the Vatican being the other — where there is no legal possibility of divorce.

Interest on Philippine campuses

The team of Pathfinder volunteers also set up book tables at the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and at the University of the Philippines to reach students unable to spend long hours in brutal Manila traffic getting to and from the fair. The same avid response was evident on both campuses. During the fair Pathfinder volunteers were invited to bring their books and speakers to other campuses on future visits.

Danica Canon, an 18-year-old student at the University of the Philippines, told Rachel Wilson from the Socialist Workers Party about demonstrations scheduled for Sept. 21 calling for the ouster of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. This marked the 46th anniversary of former President Ferdinand Marcos' imposition of martial law in 1972, a dictatorship that lasted until it was overthrown

by popular mobilizations in 1986. "The students are organizing to unite the people's struggles against the current president, who is a fascist," she said.

"In the U.S., sometimes people say President Donald Trump is a fascist," Wilson replied. "But he's not. If Trump were leading a fascist movement, we wouldn't be able to have meetings and protests like you are organizing. Thugs would be trying to bust up union meetings, social protests and book fairs. It is the world capitalist crisis that is propelling the assaults on our wages, working conditions and democratic rights. And they will provoke more working-class struggles. We need to use the space that is open to us and defend it."

Cosmetics, Fashions and the Exploitation of Women, by Joseph Hansen, Evelyn Reed and Mary-Alice Waters, was featured at a book presentation during the fair and at another meeting at the University of the Philippines. (A coming issue of the *Militant* will report on those presentations.) The book topped sales at the fair with 41 copies purchased. It was followed closely by *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes, with 29 sold. That title would easily have been the top seller if supplies had not run out long before the end.

Kevin Ansel Dy, from Ateneo University Press, was one of those who came by the booth several times, interested in getting more Pathfinder titles into the campus library. Spotting *Are They Rich Because They're Smart?* he laughed appreciatively, telling Roth a story about Imelda Marcos, the wife of the longtime dictator. "When Imelda Marcos was asked by a reporter 'Why are all your friends and relatives getting so fabulously rich under your husband's regime?' her reply was 'Honey, some people are just smarter than others.'"

Other top sellers at the fair included *Feminism and the Marxist Movement* by Mary-Alice Waters; *Problems of Women's Liberation* by Evelyn Reed; *Our History Is Still Being Written: The Story of Three Chinese-Cuban Generals in the Cuban Revolution* by Armando Choy, Gustavo Chui and Moisés Sio Wong; *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by Jack Barnes; *Fascism: What It Is and How to Fight It* by Leon Trotsky; and *Is Socialist Revolution in the US Possible?* by Mary-Alice Waters. All the copies of *The Communist Manifesto* by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels sold out rapidly.

Capitalism causes catastrophe

Continued from front page

Thousands of homes and buildings were destroyed by the storm, which made landfall near Mexico Beach Oct. 10. The storm knocked out power and cellphone service to hundreds of thousands of people at its height and flooded or closed more than 1,200 roads in several states, including Florida, Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. Fifty-three poultry houses in Georgia were destroyed and crops were damaged throughout the region.

There have been 29 deaths so far from the storm. As of Oct. 16, there were still more than 300,000 homes and businesses without electricity in Florida, and over 1,000 people missing.

The seeds of the current social crisis go back decades.

The *Miami Herald* reported that the rules on the Panhandle for storm shutters, shatterproof windows, fortified roofs and elevation standards to protect from high waters are lax to maintain "the affordability of homes and apartments." That translates into construction companies and real estate moguls cutting corners to maximize their profits.

After Category 5 Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of Miami in 1992, a statewide code to boost storm resistance of residential and commercial construction was drawn up. But it took 10 years until it was passed into law, and only for Broward and Miami-Dade counties. Lots of flimsy, but profitable, housing went up during that time.

It wasn't until 2007 that the state legislature imposed the rules for high-velocity wind zones in other parts of the state, but not all.

While three-quarters of the homes on a mile-long stretch of Mexico Beach were damaged, one home — built with reinforced concrete — was left standing relatively unscathed. It shows that housing can be built to withstand extremely high winds and flood waters.

Gov't blames working people

Capitalist government officials blame working people for staying in the face of the coming storm. Florida officials say that 285 people in Mexico Beach refused to heed a mandatory evacuation order.

Many working people in the Panhandle — where workers' wages are among the lowest in Florida — felt they had little choice. Much of the area is rural, with many dirt roads, and a large percentage of people live in mobile homes. In Mexico Beach a third of the population is 65 years or older.

"I don't have a way of getting away from here," Mary Frances Parrish, 72, from Lynn Haven, told the Associated Press. "My car's under repair and there's nowhere to go or the money to pay for a place."

The *New York Times* reported one single mother decided to stay after her employer said that if she left, she wouldn't be paid. A family that did evacuate told the *Times* they spent \$750 on hotels, food and gas just in the first three days.

As Michael picked up strength, government officials announced evacuation zones that applied to some 375,000 people, but did nothing to help people leave. The entire state of Florida had only 18 shelters open with a capacity of 1,656 people.

Florida prison officials evacuated

2,600 prisoners from the Gulf Correctional Institution, along with hundreds more from three other prisons, after the hurricane caused major damage there. The Department of Corrections, despite pleas from family members, had refused to evacuate most prisons in the storm's path ahead of time.

The government's disregard for the lives of working people continues after the storm. Gas stations are running out of fuel. Cellphone towers remain down. Government and power company officials say that it may take months to restore electricity and drinking water.

'No clue when help is coming'

The Weather Channel in its Oct. 15 lead news story on the disaster reported, "No power, no internet, no food and water and no clue when help is coming."

Showing his scorn for working people, Federal Emergency Management Agency head William Long stated that "expectations that things will be put back together instantly is mistaken." But FEMA was quick to add a "Hurricane Michael Rumor Control" page to its website. First on the list: "Rumor: The Federal Government Isn't There And Is Leaving People To Fend For Themselves."

But Florida officials lost no time in implementing police measures to protect area businesses, imposing a nighttime curfew that began the day of the storm and sending National Guard to protect stores from "looting."

Global warming?

Much of the media coverage blames the strength of Hurricane Michael on "global warming." Kim Cobb, director of the Global Change Program at Georgia Institute of Technology, wrote in the Oct. 14 *Washington Post* that Hurricanes Michael, Katrina, Sandy, Harvey, Maria and Florence were "all supercharged by manmade climate change."

But Cobb conveniently leaves out mention of previous Category 5 hurricanes, like the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane in the Florida Keys, Hurricane Camille along the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 1969 and Hurricane Andrew in 1992, because they don't fit the global warming dogma.

Blaming global warming for the destruction diverts attention from the real cause of the catastrophe: the dog-eat-dog capitalist profit system and the actions — and lack of action — by the capitalist rulers' government.

In the absence of government action, many working people have banded together to help each other out. The *Washington Post* found Brenna McAllister, a former combat medic in Afghanistan, working with other veterans, using chain saws to cut through fallen trees 12 miles outside of Panama City.

"We just got a convoy of veterans trained in working in war zones and went to work," she said. "It gives us a sense of purpose."

Alternative of revolutionary Cuba

There is an alternative — the way the revolutionary government in Cuba mobilizes workers and farmers there to prepare for threatening storms. How they use the state's resources to organize needed evacuation of both people and

pets to ensure everyone has shelter and

Thousands come to Erbil book fair in Kurdistan



Militant/Carole Lesnick

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region, Iraq — The 13th Erbil International Book Fair opened here Oct. 10, with exhibitors from some 35 countries. Titles in English are much sought after, as many young Kurds are learning the language.

On display is a wide array of books, from Kurdish, Middle Eastern, and world literature to titles on religion, science, technology and politics. The 10-day fair reflects the national pride and confidence of Kurds in Iraq, part of an oppressed nation whose people also span areas of Turkey, Iran and Syria.

Pathfinder Books in London has been well received, with sales in the first four days outstripping the 10-day totals of last year. This is the second time Pathfinder has been part of the fair. Most popular are books by leaders of the Socialist Workers Party in the U.S. presenting a working-class perspective in the face of the global capitalist crisis. The top seller is *Are They Rich Because They're Smart? Class, Privilege and Learning under Capitalism* by Jack Barnes. Books on the fight for women's emancipation and on the roots of Jew-hatred and the struggle against it are also in high demand.

— ÖGMUNDUR JÓNSSON

food, and to organize workers and material to rebuild.

Michael hit western Cuba. The government organized a timely evacuation. They sent in five contingents of electrical workers that got most people's power back on the day after the storm in hardest-hit Pinar del Rio, sent roofing

kits to repair the 120 roofs destroyed, and 15,000 fibrocement panels to repair holes. President Miguel Díaz-Canel led a government team to help organize the recovery.

"The province is not going to be alone in the recovery," said First Vice President Salvador Valdés Mesa.

Help 'Militant' fight prison censors

Continued from front page

many as in the *entire rest of the nation*, state and federal prisons combined, in the past decade."

This forces the *Militant* "to expend substantial resources battling these ongoing unconstitutional and improper efforts to ban" the paper, Goldstein wrote, adding that the Literature Review Committee should tell wardens to adhere to their own rules and to the Bill of Rights.

The *Militant* has published similar articles on solitary confinement and on Sentsov's freedom fight in previous issues, which were not impounded, Goldstein noted. Nothing in these articles encourages violence, prison disruption or any other prohibited activity, he said.

Speak out against censorship

The New York City Militant Labor Forum hosted a panel discussion Oct. 13 titled, "Join the Fight Against Prison Censorship: Defend the Right of Workers Behind Bars." The program took up the censorship of the *Militant* in Florida prisons and a new policy by state officials in Pennsylvania that restrict prisoners' access to books, periodicals and letters.

James Tager, deputy director of Free Expression Policy and Research from

PEN America, was the first speaker. PEN America, founded in 1922, brings together novelists, journalists, editors, poets and others to defend against attacks on writers and defend people's rights to read whatever they choose.

"We've also noted a pronounced uptick in attempts to restrict prisoners' access to books and newspapers," Tager said. He pointed to a "pilot project" in New York state earlier this year that limited prisoners to ordering books from just a handful of vendors. The limited selection had only a few dozen titles, heavy on coloring books and religious texts.

"They were forced to back off on the restrictions because there was a public outcry," he said.

Justin Mazzola, a deputy director of research at Amnesty International USA, pointed out that "like PEN America, we've written many letters opposing the censorship of the *Militant* and of *Prison Legal News*," another publication that has fought ongoing attempts by prison officials to keep it out of the hands of inmates.

The government claims that prison is supposed to "rehabilitate" prisoners, Mazzola said, but by denying them the

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NEW INTERNATIONAL A MAGAZINE OF MARXIST POLITICS AND THEORY



"Of all capitalism's evils, the most fundamental one is how that system of exploitation reproduces its social relations as a condition of producing its profits. How its workings, its blind methods of functioning, keep grinding toiling humanity into the ground." — Jack Barnes

Capitalism's Long Hot Winter Has Begun
by Jack Barnes in New International No. 12

Our Politics Start With The World
by Jack Barnes in New International No. 13

See list of distributors on page 8 or visit pathfinderpress.com

Korea denuclearization talks in interests of working people

BY SETH GALINSKY

President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un announced they are planning a second summit meeting soon, marking progress in reaching agreement on a formal end to decades of Washington's hostility to the North and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The first summit was in Singapore in June. The removal of nuclear weapons of all origins from Korea and the surrounding skies and seas would be celebrated by working people in Korea and around the world.

Trump announced the summit plans Oct. 9, two days after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo met with Kim in Pyongyang. This was Pompeo's second meeting with the North Korean leader to push negotiations forward.

During Pompeo's visit, Kim invited international inspectors to the Punggye-ri nuclear weapons test site to confirm that "it has been irreversibly dismantled," the U.S. State Department said. The North Korean government destroyed tunnels at the facility in May. A complete list of all of the North's nuclear facilities and international inspections confirming the destruction of nuclear sites are among Washington's demands to advance their denuclearization efforts.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea said it is also willing to dismantle its main facility for producing nuclear fuel at Yongbyon if Washington also takes further steps. Pyongyang wants the U.S. government to sign a peace treaty ending the 1950-53 Korean War.

According to numerous press reports, the White House is considering issuing a "symbolic statement" declaring the war is over — instead of signing a treaty. This approach is supported by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who has been working closely with both parties to advance the negotiations.

Washington has 28,500 troops in South Korea, keeps nuclear-capable planes and ships in the region and continues to impose harsh economic sanctions on North Korea both directly and through the United Nations.

Last year the State Department banned U.S. citizens from traveling to the North, but said it would allow humanitarian exemptions. The *Wall Street Journal* reported Oct. 11 that the department has rejected requests from at least five groups that provide food and medical aid to the North. The denials are meant to "tighten the screws," the *Journal* said, in the face of what U.S. officials claim is "foot-dragging" by Pyongyang. Sanctions like these always hit working people the hardest.

Conflict rooted in U.S. occupation

The U.S. capitalist rulers viewed the opportunity to plunder Asia as a central

conquest of their victory in the second imperialist world war. With the connivance of Moscow, Washington divided Korea in half, against the will of the Korean people, after the defeat of Japanese imperialism. Japan's rulers had occupied and exploited Korea since 1905.

With the defeat of Tokyo, there was a massive resurgence of the fight for Korean independence. Korean workers and farmers disarmed Japanese troops, peasants confiscated large landholdings, and workers committees controlled almost all the Japanese-capitalist-owned factories in the country.

After U.S. troops occupied the South in September 1945, Gen. Douglas MacArthur refused to recognize the newly formed Korean People's Republic. Instead, he declared that the U.S. Army was the sole government in the South. During the occupation thousands of workers, peasants and revolutionary political activists were arrested, and thousands killed.

The U.S. Army Military Government directly ruled the South until 1948, when it installed the dictatorial regime headed by Syngman Rhee. He remained in power until 1960, when he was forced out by a mass uprising of workers and youth.

The new government in the North, meanwhile, put in place radical reforms in the interest of working people, including a thoroughgoing land reform, expropriation of many capitalist businesses, punishment of Koreans who collaborated with the Japanese occupation, and the passage of laws guaranteeing formal equality for women.

War broke out in 1950 after numerous clashes along the North-South border. With carpet bombing, including use of massive amounts of napalm, the U.S. rulers turned much of Korea into scorched earth.

The U.S. rulers thought they could reimpose the dictatorship of capital in the North. Instead, Korean workers and farmers, with the aid of Chinese volunteers, fought the U.S. forces to a stalemate at the 38th parallel, the first ever military defeat for U.S. imperialism.

Although Washington agreed to an armistice, it has refused ever since to sign a peace treaty formally ending the war. The South Korean government

Montreal march hits gov't plan to ban religious symbols



Militant/Brigitte Grouix

MONTREAL — Several thousand people marched through the downtown streets here Oct. 7 protesting plans announced by the newly elected Coalition for the Future of Quebec (CAQ) to follow through on a campaign promise to ban the wearing of religious symbols. The move would bar civil servants in positions of authority, including teachers, judges and police officers, from wearing things like the Christian cross, Jewish kippahs or Muslim head scarves. If they refuse, they will have to transfer to other jobs or leave the civil services, Geneviève Guilbault, a CAQ member of the National Assembly and spokesperson for their transition to government, told reporters Oct. 3.

Sign on right says, "Not only am I going to keep my veil Mr. Legault; I am going to put on my cowboy hat to fight for my rights." Many Muslim women wearing the hijab or niqab joined the protest. "Mr. Legault change your attitude, my niqab stays," read a sign carried by one woman marching with her husband and children. It referred to Premier-elect Francois Legault.

"Pauline Marois with her Quebec Charter of Values tried this in 2013, and she didn't succeed. It's not going to happen now either," Naima El, a child care worker originally from Morocco, told the *Militant*. "Many Muslim women work in child care centers. They can't fire all of us."

One group of men wearing the kippah carried placards with the photographs and names of six Muslim men killed in the January 2017 massacre at a mosque near Quebec City.

— BEVERLY BERNARDO

is not permitted to move any people or goods to the North without the approval of the U.S.-run United Nations command, which has been kept in place there since 1953.

SWP: 'US must sign peace treaty'

"We demand that Washington immediately sign a peace treaty," wrote Steve Clark for the National Committee of the Socialist Workers Party in a message to the people of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the occasion of their Oct. 10 national holiday. "The U.S. government must call a *permanent* halt to joint war games with Seoul and lift all sanctions against the DPRK. We demand withdrawal of US troops and weaponry from Korea's soil, skies, and

waters, including, as well, an end to Washington's 'nuclear umbrella' over South Korea and Japan."

Clark noted that the Socialist Workers Party welcomes "every step since the Singapore summit in June toward an agreement between the DPRK and the US government ensuring a Korea free of nuclear weapons of any origin."

Progress toward decreasing tensions along the border between North and South, talks being held about large-scale joint industrial and rail development projects, and the reinitiation of reunion programs for families separated since the war point toward the potential for reunification of the country.

"For a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula!" Clark concluded. "Korea is one!"

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Join SWP taking campaign to workers!

Continued from front page

away your vote” — that our only choice is to vote for the lesser evil. But to vote for *any* of the candidates of the bosses’ parties is throwing away your vote.

They tell us “we” are all Americans, but there is no “we.” There are two Americas — the America of the relative handful of billionaire families who own the banks, mines, factories and retail giants, and their hangers-on, and the America of those forced to work for them to survive.

They say that when they get richer, it’s good for us because we get the crumbs off their table. But it’s a lie. When they get richer, it’s off our backs. Our interests are fundamentally counterposed.

Working people need to think socially and act politically. We aren’t just workers fighting for our class interests here in the U.S., we are part of the international working class. We have no interests in the U.S. rulers’ trade pacts, much less their wars to seize markets and profits off the lives of workers abroad. We have common class interests to fight against the bosses and their governments alongside all the oppressed and exploited the world over.

Millions of workers and farmers are looking for a solution to the growing carnage of the capitalist economic and social crisis. Deaths on the job because of the bosses’ greed. The opioid and alcoholism epidemics. Lack of adequate health care. Young people used as cannon fodder in the rulers’ wars around the world. Some 115,000 students in New York City public schools who are homeless — fully 10 percent of all students. The social

catastrophes coming out of so-called natural disasters. The conditions faced by our brothers and sisters behind bars.

We face a challenge. Only 6.5 percent of workers at private companies belong to a union.

Feeling a little more confidence with the cyclical upturn in the capitalist economy, more workers are seeking to join unions, or are fighting, or striking to improve conditions and wages — like Uber and other drivers, like thousands of striking hotel workers who proclaim, “One job should be enough.” But under capitalism today, one job is often not enough to pay the rent, to feed and clothe our families.

The SWP candidates encourage workers to organize solidarity with the hotel workers and all those who go on strike or are organizing to be in a union today.

We need a fighting union movement that says, “We don’t care where you were born, we don’t care what language you speak, we don’t care about the color of your skin. Join us! Let’s fight together!”

But we need more than that. We need our own working-class political voice.

Our own labor party, based on the unions, would challenge the Democrats and Republicans not just in the elections. It would build a fighting alliance between workers and exploited farmers. It would be a tribune of the people drawing in all the oppressed. And it would open the road to taking political and economic power out of the hands of the capitalist carnage-makers once and for all.

Join the Socialist Workers Party campaign!

‘Militant’ censorship

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right to the literature of their choosing, they make it harder for people behind bars to be part of the world and prepare for their life outside prison walls.

Willie Cotton, speaking for the Socialist Workers Party, outlined the *Militant’s* fight against censorship in Florida prisons. “Sometimes they’ve censored articles for writing about the fight against censorship,” Cotton said.

Prisons and the criminal “justice” system aren’t set up to dispense justice, Cotton noted, but to keep working people in their place. They run you through the plea bargain system, where over 90 percent of people who face charges are forced to cop a plea, regardless of whether they did anything or not.

As the class struggle outside prison walls heats up, we will see more attempts to take away constitutional rights of those behind prison bars, Cotton said.

“In fighting for the *Militant*, we’re not fighting only for our newspaper or even for subscribers,” *Militant* editor John Studer said in the discussion, “but for all workers behind bars to read the literature of their choosing, to think for themselves and to be part of the movement to change the world.”

Everyone opposed to the Florida prison system’s violations of the Bill of Rights can help out with this fight by writing a letter, and getting unions, church groups, community organizations, co-workers and others to do likewise, opposing censorship of the *Militant*.

Send letters to Dean Peterson, Library Services Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections, Attn: Literature Review Committee, 501 South Calhoun Street, Tallahassee, FL 32399-2500, and via email to Allen.Peterson@fdc.myflorida.com. Please send a copy and a contribution to continue this battle to the *Militant*.

Workers need to build their own political party, a labor party

Continued from front page

paing for working people to establish their own voice. It explains they need a labor party that is independent of the capitalist rulers’ parties and their state and acts to unite our class in struggle. We need unions, and actions to defend our class and others who are feeling the deep effects of the crisis of capitalism that the bosses seek to put on our backs. And we need a course towards overturning the rule of the capitalists and taking political power into our own hands.

Party branches are mapping out the final weeks of aggressive campaigning, spearheaded by taking the party, its program and activities, the *Militant* and books by party leaders that explain this course, to workers on their doorsteps. We urge you to join with them, get involved!

With jobless figures dropping, workers are becoming more assured that they can change jobs and with that comes greater confidence to stand up to the bosses. SWP members are joining striking hotel workers, cement workers and others, helping to build solidarity. Where they work, they act to strengthen the union, or to organize if they don’t have one yet.

And they take part in street protests and meetings against Washington’s wars, for amnesty for all workers without papers the rulers consider “proper,” against police brutality and to defend women’s right to choose abortion. They speak out about the example of working people in Cuba, who have shown that we can take power and run society in the interests of the toiling majority.

Working-class marks politics today

The working class has put its mark on all the big unfolding political developments. Real estate mogul Donald Trump won the 2016 election because millions of working people, hit hard by the effects of the crisis and the U.S. rulers’ wars in Afghanistan and the Middle East, were — in a distorted way, as with all bourgeois elections — casting a vote for what they hoped would be a change. Many others didn’t vote, disgusted with what they’d gotten from decades of Republicans and Democrats alike in the White House.

Hillary Clinton said this was because so many workers are “racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, Islamophobic, you name it.”

Both the Democratic and Republican parties are be-

coming more unstable and fractured. The Democrats especially are riven between the middle-of-the-road “progressives” and the socialist reformer wing of the party. Trump is solidifying his support within the Republican Party, but it continues to contain many who cannot reconcile themselves to his presidency.

The election of Trump, and the rulers’ growing fears of the working class, spurred a furious “resistance” among the Democrats. It’s a permanent feature of politics today, dragging in the middle-class left. In their drive to oust Trump they strike out at political rights that are crucial to working people and look to restrict the franchise of the class they consider dangerous — the working class. They hail the FBI when two former heads of the rulers’ political police help spearhead their campaign around allegations of Trump collaboration with Moscow in stealing the election. In their hysteria to stop Trump’s nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court, Brett Kavanaugh, they’re hell-bent on trampling on the presumption of innocence.

But the Democrats’ anti-Kavanaugh crusade backfired. “The most recent polls have underscored the real possibility that Republicans will keep control of both the Senate and House,” liberal columnist and a leading anti-Trump crusader David Leonhardt wrote in the *New York Times* Oct. 12.

Hillary Clinton says, “You cannot be civil with a political party that wants to destroy what you stand for.” Former Democratic Attorney General Eric Holder, one of many “resisters” said to be looking at a White House run in 2020, told his followers, “When they [Trump and his supporters] go low, we kick them.”

Others have taken the resistance campaign more to heart. Last year Bernie Sanders supporter James Hodgkinson took a bunch of guns, went to a Republican softball team practice and opened fire, seriously wounding Rep. Steven Scalise.

The target of all this fury is “Trump’s base,” the “deplorables.” Liberals argue working people are more racist, anti-immigrant, anti-woman, reactionary.

Nothing could be further from the truth. As the Socialist Workers Party campaigns on workers’ doorsteps, from the hollers of West Virginia to public housing high rises in Brooklyn, and on strike picket lines, we find the working class is becoming politicized and interested in discussing a course forward.

A group of women unionists attending a conference

of North America’s Building Trades Unions in Seattle Oct. 12 joined striking UNITE HERE Local 8 members picketing in front of the Westin Hotel Oct. 12.

Edwin Fruit, SWP candidate for U.S. Senate in Washington state, and supporter Jeanne FitzMaurice were marching in solidarity. They met Enola Thomas, a union iron worker from Kennewick. She said she was originally from New Orleans, displaced by the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

“People lost their homes and had to leave the city,” she said. “And then the real estate developers bought up the land cheap, but they didn’t build the housing that workers needed.”

Fruit said that the working class needs a labor party to represent its interests. “I agree with what you are saying but how do we get there?” Thomas asked. “It will require a resurgence in the labor movement with a movement of millions beginning to fight back against what the capitalist class is doing to us,” Fruit responded, showing her a copy of *Malcolm X, Black Liberation, and the Road to Workers Power* by SWP National Secretary Jack Barnes. “The gains that Blacks have made in this country are due to the fight of the Black nationality. Their battles and determination are a harbinger of the future fight of the working class to take power,” Fruit said. Thomas got a subscription to the *Militant* and the book.

Thomas said she didn’t understand why union people would vote for Trump. Fruit showed her a copy of *The Clintons’ Anti-Working-Class Record*, also by Barnes. “This book,” Fruit said, “explains how under the Bill Clinton administration the most vulnerable parts of the working class were affected by his ending of ‘welfare as we know it,’ how they changed the laws so the prison population shot way up, and how they lowered our cost-of-living raises on Social Security and other things by rigging inflation rates.”

“I didn’t know this stuff happened under Clinton,” Thomas said. She got a copy of that book too and said she wants to stay in touch.

The rulers and their Democrats and Republicans treat workers as the *objects* of government policy. Today, as they more and more fear class struggles to come, they want to push us out of politics. The SWP says working people are the *makers* of history. And we’re campaigning to win more to join in shaping a course along this line. Join our campaign!